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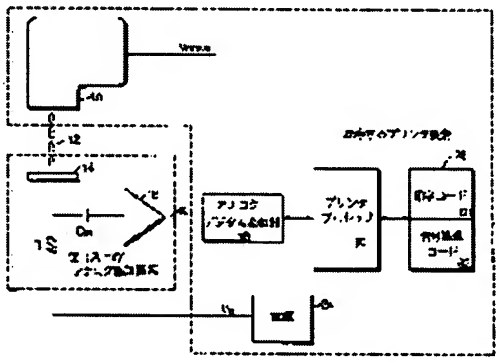
(54) INK DROPLET DETECTOR

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To extract an ink droplet value high in reliability from a low cost amplifier.

SOLUTION: A low cost ink droplet detector includes an analogue/digital converter 18 being a digital signal processing element, a printer processor 20, a memory 22, a sensing element 14 being a low cost analogue sensing element and a sensitivity amplifier 16. Voltage potential V0 is applied to the sensing element 14 from a power supply 24 and drive voltage potential VDRIVE is applied to a printing head 10. The sensitivity amplifier 16 generates an output signal 40 in response to the voltage applied to the sensing element 14 by the ejection of ink droplets 12 from the printing head 10. The analogue/digital converter 18 forms the digitalized output value of the output signal 40 and, when this output value is supplied to the printer processor 20, a signal processing code 62 is executed and the amplitude of the output signal 40 is determined in predetermined frequency and the droplet detection value is calculated on the basis of this amplitude.



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